

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

Sub A67 5 1. A button module for covering a button of a portable computing device, said module comprising:

0 a button frame module forming a vertical cavity that is adapted to align with said button of said portable computing device; and

10 a membrane layer disposed on an outer side of said button frame module and covering an opening of said vertical cavity;

15 wherein said button module is for attaching to said portable computing device to cover said button of said portable computing device.

20 2. The button module as described in Claim 1 wherein said membrane layer comprises a thermo-plastic urethane (TPU).

25 3. The button module as described in Claim 1 wherein said membrane layer comprises a thermo-plastic elastomer (TPE).

20 4. The button module as described in Claim 1 wherein said membrane layer comprises a silicone.

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5. The button module as described in Claim 1 wherein said membrane layer comprises a rubber.

6. The button module as described in Claim 1 wherein said membrane 5 layer comprises a leather.

7. The button module as described in Claim 1 wherein said membrane layer comprises a nylon.

8. The button module as described in Claim 1 wherein said button frame module comprises a polycarbonite.

9. The button module as described in Claim 1 wherein said button frame module comprises a plastic.

10. The button module as described in Claim 1 wherein said button frame module comprises a metal.

11. The button module as described in Claim 1 wherein said button frame 20 module comprises an alloy.

12. The button module as described in Claim 1 wherein said button frame module comprises a nylon.

13. The button module as described in Claim 1 wherein said portable computing device comprises a personal digital assistant (PDA).

5 14. The button module as described in Claim 1 wherein said button module couples to a top cover of said portable computing device.

10 15. The button module as described in Claim 1 wherein said button module couples to a midframe of said portable computing device.

16. The button module as described in Claim 1 wherein said button module couples to a rear cover of said portable computing device.

17. A removable button module for covering a button of a portable computing device, said module comprising:

15 a button frame module forming a vertical cavity that is adapted to align with said button of said portable computing device; and

20 a membrane layer disposed on an outer side of said button frame module and covering an opening of said vertical cavity;

wherein said removable button module is for removably attaching to said portable computing device to cover said button of said portable computing device.

18. The removable button module as described in Claim 17 wherein said membrane layer comprises a thermo-plastic urethane (TPU).

19. The removable button module as described in Claim 17 wherein said 5 membrane layer comprises a thermo-plastic elastomer (TPE).

20. The removable button module as described in Claim 17 wherein said membrane layer comprises a silicone.

10 21. The removable button module as described in Claim 17 wherein said membrane layer comprises a rubber.

15 22. The removable button module as described in Claim 17 wherein said membrane layer comprises a leather.

23. The removable button module as described in Claim 17 wherein said membrane layer comprises a nylon.

20 24. The removable button module as described in Claim 17 wherein said button frame module comprises a polycarbonate.

25. The removable button module as described in Claim 17 wherein said button frame module comprises a plastic.

26. The removable button module as described in Claim 17 wherein said button frame module comprises a metal.

5 27. The removable button module as described in Claim 17 wherein said button frame module comprises an alloy.

28. The removable button module as described in Claim 17 wherein said button frame module comprises a nylon.

0 29. The removable button module as described in Claim 17 wherein said portable computing device comprises a personal digital assistant (PDA).

15 30. A removable button module for covering a button of a personal digital assistant, said module comprising:

20 a button frame module forming a vertical cavity that is adapted to align with said button of said personal digital assistant; and

25 a membrane layer disposed on an outer side of said button frame module and covering an opening of said vertical cavity;

wherein said removable button module is for removably attaching to said personal digital assistant to cover said button of said personal digital assistant.

31. The removable button module as described in Claim 30 wherein said membrane layer comprises a thermo-plastic urethane (TPU).

32. The removable button module as described in Claim 30 wherein said 5 membrane layer comprises a thermo-plastic elastomer (TPE).

33. The removable button module as described in Claim 30 wherein said membrane layer comprises a silicone.

34. The removable button module as described in Claim 30 wherein said membrane layer comprises a rubber.

35. The removable button module as described in Claim 30 wherein said membrane layer comprises a nylon.

36. The removable button module as described in Claim 30 wherein said button frame module comprises a polycarbonate.

37. The removable button module as described in Claim 30 wherein said 20 button frame module comprises a plastic.

38. The removable button module as described in Claim 30 wherein said button frame module comprises a metal.

39. The removable button module as described in Claim 30 wherein said button frame module comprises an alloy.

5 40. The removable button module as described in Claim 30 wherein said button frame module comprises a nylon.

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